

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of deterring document counterfeiting comprising:

providing at least one authentic hard-copy document, each of said authentic hard-copy document printed including a first set of colors within a first color gamut of a printing device and at least one mark ~~having at least one printed using a second color that is within a second color gamut, where the color second gamut is out of gamut of a said printing device having at least three ink colors, said out of gamut second color being printed using a custom-color ink;~~

color scanning a plurality of candidate documents to form scanned documents each having a two-dimensional array of image pixels for each candidate document;

searching each pixel array for said at least one out of gamut to identify said second color mark;

sorting said plurality of candidate documents into a first group of scanned documents, which includes documents identified as having only the first set of colors within said first color gamut not having said at least one out of gamut color mark, and into a second group of scanned documents having said ~~at least one out of gamut second color mark within said second color gamut,~~ so that said scanned documents in said first group ~~being is~~ characterized as counterfeit, and said scanned documents in said second group ~~being is~~ characterized as authentic; and

wherein said out of gamut color produced by said custom color ink is selected from a differential gamut color volume lying outside a printable colors gamut volume of said printing device, but inside both an object colors gamut volume and a gamut of physically realizable colors of a 3-dimensional color space.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as recited claim 1, wherein each of said pixels has at least three color pixel values.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as recited claim 1, wherein the step of color scanning includes employing a colorimeter.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited claim 1, wherein the step of providing authentic hard-copy documents includes providing a plurality of bank checks.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited claim 1, further comprising:

noting correct pixel locations of said at least one color in said authentic document;
determining particular pixel locations of said at least one color in each of said second group of scanned documents; and

forming a third group of scanned documents not having said particular pixel locations corresponding to said correct pixel locations, and into a fourth group of scanned documents having said particular pixel locations corresponding to said correct pixel locations, so that said scanned documents in said third group being probably counterfeit, and said scanned documents in said fourth group being possibly authentic.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as recited claim 1, further comprising employing an authentication test taken from a group of authentication tests consisting of:

gamut color size correspondence;
gamut color location correspondence;
magnetic number correspondence;
checking account pattern-of-use exception;
unexpected presence of ultraviolet fluorescing;
unexpected presence of thermochromic responding;
unexpected presence of laser resonating inks;

unexpected absence of ultraviolet fluorescing;
unexpected absence of thermochromic responding;
unexpected absence of laser resonating inks; and
any combination of these authentication tests.

8-18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) The method as recited claim 1, further comprising employing an authentication test taken from a group of authentication tests consisting of:

checking account pattern-of-use exception;
unexpected presence of thermochromic responding;
unexpected presence of laser resonating inks;
unexpected absence of ultraviolet fluorescing;
unexpected absence of thermochromic responding;
unexpected absence of laser resonating inks; and
any combination of these authentication tests.